



SUPER INVENTIONS

by Raye Lankford



MARTHA SPEAKS™



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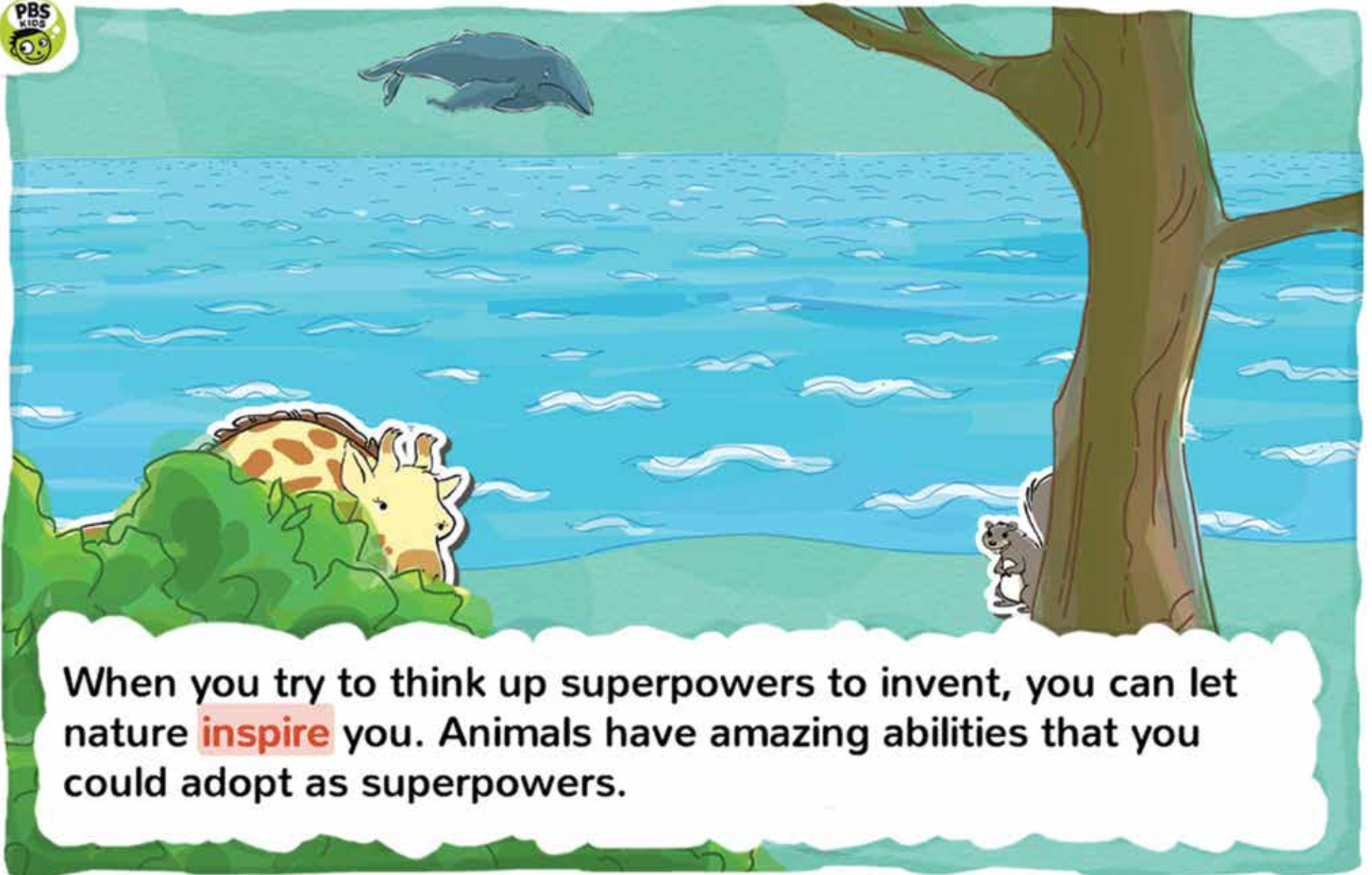
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Pretending you're a famous superhero is fun. But have you ever tried to **create** your own superhero with your own special superpowers? You can if you're an inventor!

create: when you create something, you make it.

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When you try to think up superpowers to invent, you can let nature **inspire** you. Animals have amazing abilities that you could adopt as superpowers.

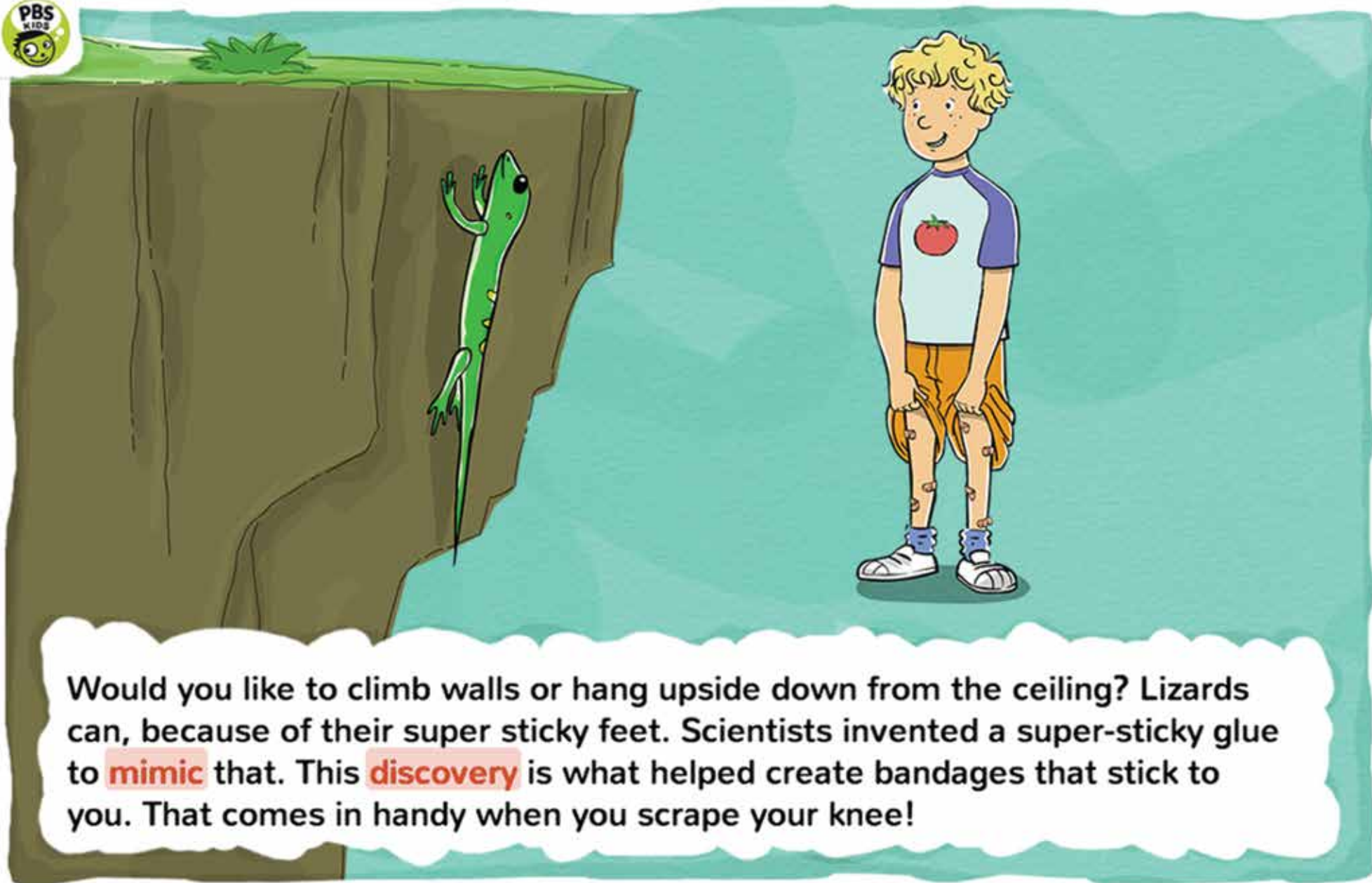
inspire: when something inspires you, it makes you think of something or gives you an idea.

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Would you like to fly? Birds can! For years, people tried to **copy** birds so they could fly, too. It seemed impossible, until two brothers named Orville and Wilbur Wright invented the airplane.

copy: when you copy someone or something, you do things the same way as they do them.



Would you like to climb walls or hang upside down from the ceiling? Lizards can, because of their super sticky feet. Scientists invented a super-sticky glue to **mimic** that. This **discovery** is what helped create bandages that stick to you. That comes in handy when you scrape your knee!

mimic: when you mimic someone, you do something in the same way they do it.

discovery: when you discover something, you find something for the first time.

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Being invisible is a super cool superpower! Many animals look **similar** to things around them. They aren't invisible, but they blend in so they're hard to see. That's called camouflage. Inventors copied these animals and created camouflage clothes and makeup. Now you can blend in, too!

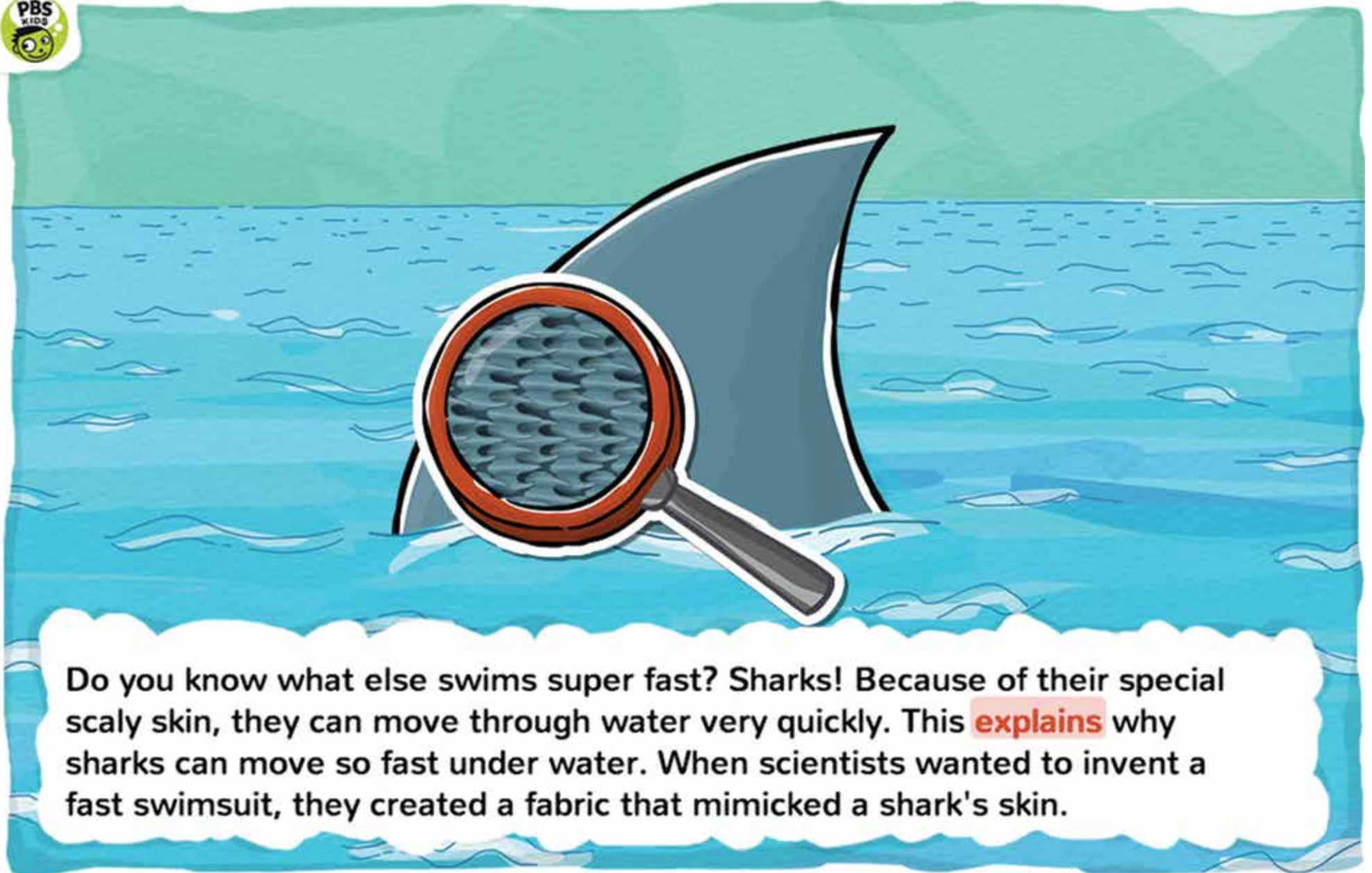
similar: when things are similar, they are like each other, but not exactly the same.

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Maybe you'd like to be a super-fast swimmer? Frogs and seals have webbed feet, which allows them to swim faster in water when they kick their legs. Scientists adopted this **concept** to create swimming flippers. Next time you go swimming, don't forget your flippers!

concept: a concept means an idea.



Do you know what else swims super fast? Sharks! Because of their special scaly skin, they can move through water very quickly. This **explains** why sharks can move so fast under water. When scientists wanted to invent a fast swimsuit, they created a fabric that mimicked a shark's skin.

explains: if you explain something, you talk about it in a way that is easy to understand.



How about being able to see in the dark? That could come in handy. Some animals, such as owls and cats have this ability. This helped scientists invent machines called night vision goggles that let you see better in the dark.



Inventors have given us so many cool things. They use the best superpower of all - their brains! What will you use your brain to create? Check out your favorite animals and decide what **original** invention you can make!

original: original means the first or earliest of something.